

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 INSE-00 FBIE-00 /026 W

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R 110045Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6712

INFO USIA

UNCLAS MEXICO 10279

USIA FOR ILA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR ELAB MX

SUBJECT: COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON DEPORTATION OF ILLEGALS

1. MEXICO DAILIES OF AUGUST 10 GAVE WIDESPREAD AND POSITIVE COVERAGE TO AMBASSADOR'S IMPROMPTU RESPONSES TO THE PRESS ON RECENT REPORTS OF "MASSIVE" DEPORTATIONS OF ILLEGAL MEXICANS FROM THE US. SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING EXCELSIOR, FRONT-PAGED THE AMBASSADOR'S WORDS AND EVEN LEFTIST EL DIA, USUALLY STRIDENTLY ANTI-US, PUBLISHED A STRAIGHT-FORWARD REPORT.

2. THEMES WHICH RECEIVED THE GREATEST EMPHASIS WERE:
A) THE AMBASSADOR'S DENIAL THAT THE CURRENT DEPORTATION IS A POLITICAL MOVE AGAINST MEXICO AND AFFIRMATION THAT THE REPATRIATION FLIGHTS WILL NOT HURT THE STRONG RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS; AND
B) THAT IF THE TREATMENT OF THE ILLEGAL BRACEROS WERE SO BAD, THERE WOULD NOT BE SO MANY MEXICANS TRYING TO ENTER THE US (AMBASSADOR QUOTED A FIGURE GIVEN BY A MEXICAN OFFICIAL), AND
C) THAT THE NUMBER OF ILLEGALS BEING DEPORTED IS MINIMAL IN RELATION TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ILLEGALS IN THE US.

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3. AN EXCELSIOR EDITORIAL OF THE SAME DAY CALLED FOR

THE INCLUSION OF THIS PROBLEM ON ANY AGENDA OF THE PRO-
POSED MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PRESIDENT-ELECT
JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO.
JOVA

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MIGRATORY WORKERS, EXPULSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO10279
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760308-0402
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760865/aaaacejd.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON DEPORTATION OF ILLEGALS
TAGS: PBOR, ELAB, MX, (JOVA, JOSEPH J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006